

Upon the recommendation of:
Councilor William H. Dwight
Councilor John T. Thorpe
Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra

20.064 A RESOLUTION
IN RESPONSE TO THE MOST RECENT KILLINGS OF AFRICAN-AMERICANS

Whereas:

George Floyd, an unarmed African-American man, was asphyxiated by a Minneapolis police officer or officers on May 25th 2020; and

Whereas:

Breonna Taylor, an African-American Emergency Room Technician, was shot eight times and killed in her own home by Louisville police on March 13th, 2020; and

Whereas:

Ahmaud Arbery, an African-American man was shot and killed by two white civilian men while jogging through a South Georgia neighborhood on February 23rd, 2020; and

Whereas:

Mr. Floyd's, Ms. Taylor's, and Mr. Arbery's deaths and the manner of their deaths are yet more examples, in a list of countless examples, of an endemic culture of oppression and racism that exists in our country; and

Whereas:

The widespread revulsion demonstrated by our fellow citizens to this, and to all of the accumulated historical racist actions, requires a reckoning and a commitment from all of us to confront this greatest threat to our society; and

Whereas:

In the absence of presidential leadership, it is incumbent upon local authorities to respond to the suffering that racism inflicts; and

Whereas:

Silence and lack of expressed outrage and sorrow reflect complacency and, by extension, complicity in these atrocities; and

Whereas:

We continue to mourn the most recent deaths chronicled in this resolution and all of the racially perpetrated deaths that preceded them; and

Whereas:

The City Council of Northampton has for decades decried and condemned by resolution and laws the myriad racist acts committed by individuals and persons in authority; and

Whereas:

The City Council of Northampton will continue to stand unified in our commitment to confront institutional racism, implicit bias, and bigotry in all forms and violence.

Now therefore be it resolved that the City Council of Northampton:

Reasserts its unequivocal opposition to expressions and acts of hate; and

Be it further resolved that:

We call for increased resources from the Commonwealth for comprehensive anti-racism trainings for state and municipal employees and students; and

Be it further resolved that:

We will not sanction oppression done in Northampton's name; and

Be it further resolved that:

We will devote our efforts to expanding the challenging but necessary community conversation on racism and on all of our respective culpabilities; and

Be it further resolved that:

The Administrative Assistant shall cause a copy of this resolution to be delivered to Governor Charles Baker, Attorney General Maura Healy, Senators Elizabeth Warren and Edward Markey, Congressman James McGovern, Massachusetts Senator Jo Comerford and Massachusetts Representative Lindsay Sabadosa.